

## Twitter Thread by [Jaya Upadhyaya](#)



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### ETTUMANOOR MAHADEVA, KOTTAYAM (KER)

It is said that once, Shiva was pleased with the prayers of demon Khara. He gave 3 shivlingas to him and told him to worship them regularly. Khara held 2 lingas in his hands and hung one from his neck. While coming back, he fell as he was tired.



He consecrated the 2 lingas in his hand there. These are believed to be Vaikom Shiva and Ettumanoor Shiva. Then he took out the 3rd one hanging around his neck with his teeth and consecrated that too. So it is called Kadichiruthi/Kaduthuruthi

(put down with teeth).



After consecrating all, Khara is believed to have become a deer and started worshiping Prabhu. Shiva, then, took the deer in his hand and held it there. So this place was called Udhruthaina Puram, which means Ettumanoor (place where the deer was lifted).



The major attraction in this mandir is "Ezhara Ponnana" or Seven and a half elephants. These statues are made of wood and covered with gold plates. A total of 58 kilo gold is used to create them. It is believed that the King of Travancore has made these idols for Vaikom Mandir.



It was being carried out to Vaikom by water but the boat got stuck on sand. An astrologer came there and told them that, Ettumanoorappan, the presiding Devta of Ettumanoor got attracted to these statues and will not part with it. So the King donated the statues to Ettumanoor.

